

**APPROVED**  
September 28, 2015

**Marengo City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
September 14, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart called the Regular Meeting of the Marengo City Council to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lockhart led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. We then observed a Moment of Silence in remembrance of McHenry County Sheriff Dwight Maness who passed away today.

**RECOGNITION AND INTRODUCTION**

Chief Hallman introduced Erica Tapia. She is an intern at the Marengo Police Department, and is majoring in Criminal Justice.

**ROLL CALL**

Present this evening are Mayor Donald Lockhart; Aldermen James Regelin, Matt Keenum, Michael Smith, Nicole DeBoer, Brett Martin and Todd Hall. Also present are City Administrator Gary Boden, Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Joseph Hallman, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten. Aldermen Dennis Hammortree and Steve Mortensen were absent this evening.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident spoke to the Council on an ongoing problem with storm drain on her property. She asked for an update on this, and was advised that the City Engineer would speak on this during his report. Mayor Lockhart thanked her for her patience in getting this problem solved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – August 24, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the minutes. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Keenum, DeBoer, Hall, Regelin, Smith and Martin  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. List of Bills
- b. Marengo Woman’s Club Craft Fair Signage Request
- c. Marengo Lions Candy Day Request
- d. Consent to Appointment to Planning & Zoning Commission
- e. Authorization to Submit HR Green & Williams Brothers Construction Inc Invoice to IEPA for Loan Disbursement and Authorize Payment Upon Receipt of Said Disbursement
- f. Appointments to an Ad Hoc Committee to Review City Funding of Cemetery Operations

Alderman requested that items A and D be split off and considered separately.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve items B, C, E and F. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Regelin, Smith, Keenum, DeBoer, Martin and Hall  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

**ITEM A – LIST OF BILLS**

There were questions from the Aldermen about the invoices for sludge removal. Assistant City Administrator clarified those to the Council.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the List of Bills. The alderman voted as follows:

Ayes: Martin, Hall, Keenum, Regelin and Smith  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: DeBoer (due to her relationship with MDC)

The motion passed.

**ITEM D – CONSENT TO APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

A question was asked regarding the need for the appointment to the PZC, and it was explained that there was a vacancy that needed to be filled.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the appointment of Peter Hunt to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Smith, Keenum, Martin, Regelin, Hall and DeBoer  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **An Amendment of Existing Special Use Permit Ordinance No 99-7-2 allowing the Operation of A Self-Storage Facility including a Variance to Front Yard Setback Requirements to 108 Feet from the Centerline of US Highway 20**

Attorney Arevalo reviewed this item with the Council, explaining the request for a Variance to Front Yard Setback Requirements (from 150 feet to 108 feet), and the Amendment of the existing Special use Permit Ordinance #99-7-2 (to allow construction of two min-warehouse buildings). There were concerns expressed by Council members on the use and the landscaping. Attorney McKenna addressed these concerns and explained the reasons for the Special Use Permit amendment, as well as the Set Back request. The Council made a suggestion on the landscaping, to include masonry elements and fencing elements. They also requested that a combination of low plants and taller trees be incorporated to soften the street view.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman James Regelin, to approve the Variance Request (setback request) with landscaping parameters to include screening, landscaping and drainage as per the Council's requests, and also approve the Special Use Amendment Request. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Regelin, DeBoer, Hall, Smith and Mayor Lockhart

Nays: Martin and Keenum  
Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

**b. Authorization to Accept Bid for FY 15/16 Street Improvement Program**

Tim Hartnett reviewed the information with the Council. There were 5 bids received on the Street Improvement Program, for Willow, Van Buren and Sunset. These ranged from \$225,172.60 (from J.A. Johnson Paving Co, and \$170,128.17 (from Peter Baker & Son). H. R. Green is recommending that the City go with Peter Baker & Sons on this project.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to authorize acceptance of the bid from Peter Baker & Son for this project. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: DeBoer, Keenum, Smith, Regelin, Martin and Hall  
Nays: 0  
Abstain; 0

The motion passed.

**STORM DRAIN PROBLEM UPDATE**

City Engineer Hartnett spoke on the storm drain problem on East Street and Van Buren Street. A solution has been worked out that should solve the problem. They have received 3 quotes for this project, and final figures will be provided to the City as soon as they (H. R. Green) have reviewed them. City Administrator Boden stated that this project falls within his scope of approval – from the general fund – under normal expenditures.

**MAYOR’S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Lockhart gave the following statement; “In light of the fact that the State seems to be looking into the City’s ability to charge property taxes for a couple of years, if not longer, I hope this Ad Hoc Committee’s review process will acknowledge the much larger issue in Marengo – funding for small city governments. Particularly, Capital Improvement is a big problem in Illinois. This City Government funding problem is the leading cause that challenges the community and the Cemetery Board. At the same time in appointing this ad hoc committee, I am hoping that the Council, the cemetery board, and the community will be able to better understand the types of commitments that it takes to run the cemetery. If anything, I expect that personality conflicts and personal politics will be left out of any review of the cemetery’s operation. I am hoping that the work from this Ad Hoc Committee will take a cooperative approach while recognizing our financial situation.”

**DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

Asst. City Administrator Blakemore further clarified the invoices that were discussed earlier. The treatment plant is doing fairly well, and training is in process for chemical storage. He is anticipating having the liability insurance renewal information for the Council at the next meeting. The projected increase for that renewal is from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelton advised the Council that the August Financial report will be presented at the next meeting. They should also have the Audit report at that time as well.

Chief of Police Hallman had submitted a written report to the Council, and brought with him some samples of the E-Cigarette items that are now available for purchase at a store in town. These items were confiscated at the high school.

City Engineer Hartnett had submitted a written report, and had nothing further to add.

City Administrator Boden spoke about the correspondence received on 300 West LLC, and the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Nothing has been reported directly to the City on this. It is possible that this will be on the October agenda with an update at that time. The City has received an inquiry from a possible new business taking up operation south of Pleasant Grove Road and the vicinity of Meyer Road – Super Mix. This is a possible new gravel pit operation. More information may be available in October.

Alderman Keenum asked for a more in depth report from the Building Department in the future.

**REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

Alderman Regelin spoke about the upcoming Soup Kitchen that will be starting October 13<sup>th</sup>, and invited all the Council members to attend. This will be held on Tuesdays, and the hours of operation will be from noon to 8 pm. The Presbyterian Church is the current location.

Alderman Smith advised that Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, is National POW/MIA Observance Day. Mayor Lockhart has been approached by several veterans from town, asking if a sign could be put up directing people to Calvin Spencer Park, where the Purple Heart monument is.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman James Regelin, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.



---

Constance J Boxleitner  
City Clerk

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the City Council on September 28, 2015.